



MACHYNLLETH URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

MEDICAL OFFICER'S REPORT for the YEAR ENDING 31st DEC. 1951.

(including SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT).

MEDICAL OFFICER:

Dr Amelia Rowles,
TOWN HALL,
NEWTOWN.

SANITARY INSPECTOR:

B. BROOKS EVANS,
PLAS MACHYNLLETH,
MACHYNLLETH.



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MACHYNLLETH URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

To the Chairman and Members of the Machynlleth U.D.C. Council.

Mr Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have the honour of presenting to you an Annual Report on the health of your District for the year ended December 1951.

I would like to apologise for the long delay in presenting this report which is accounted for by the fact that I took up my Official duties on November 1st, 1952.

I am, Gentlemen,

Yours faithfully,

Amelis Rowles,

Medical Officer of Health.

Statistical Survey for 1951.

Area.	1183 acres.
Population (a) Registrar-General's Mid Year Estimate.	1840.
(b) 1951 Census.	1875.
Rateable Value.	£8783.
Sum represented by ld. rate.	£32. 15. 2.

Vital Statistics.

Population.

	<u>1931 Census.</u>	<u>1951 Census.</u>	<u>Trend.</u> Decrease.
Males.	904.	873.	
Females.	988.	1002.	17.
Total.	1892.	1875.	0.9%

Live Births.

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Legitimate.	13.	22.	38.
Illegitimate.	2.	0.	2.
Total	18.	22.	40.

On a population of 1875 this gives a Crude Birth Rate of 21.33 per 1,000 population, that of the County being 16.83 and that of England and Wales 15.5.

Still Births.

There were no still births during the year under review.

Infant Mortality.

There were no deaths of infants occurring under 1 year of age. The Infant Mortality Rate for England and Wales was 29.6.

Deaths.

During the year there were 27 deaths in the area, 17 males and 10 females. This gives a Crude Death Rate of 14.67 per 1,000 population, compared with 14.08 for the County and 12.5 for England and Wales.

Applying the Comparability Factor (0.89) to this area, we have a Standardised Death Rate of 13.06 per 1,000 population.

The table shows that there were 2 deaths from tuberculosis, 5 from cancer, and 12 deaths from heart disease and circulatory disease of the nervous system.

Causes of Death.

There were no maternal deaths.

	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Pulmonary tuberculosis.	1.	1.	2.
Malignant neoplasms, Stomach.	1.	0.	1.
Breast.	-	1.	1.
Uterus.	-	1.	1.
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms.	1.	1.	2.
Vascular lesions of Nervous System.	4.	1.	5.
Heart disease.	5.	2.	7.
Bronchitis.	1.	1.	2.
Nephritis and nephrosis.	2.	1.	3.
Hyperplasia of prostate.	1.	-	1.
Other defined and ill-defined diseases.	0.	1.	1.
Motor vehicle accidents.	1.	0.	1.
Total.	17.	10.	27.

Infectious Diseases.

The only notification of infectious disease received during the year was in respect of one case of paratyphoid.

Tuberculosis.

During the year 4 cases of pulmonary tuberculosis were notified. There were no cases of non-pulmonary tuberculosis notified.

The cases of pulmonary tuberculosis consisted of two females, ages, 52 years and 29 years, and two males aged 30 and 16 years.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

The water supply proved adequate in quantity at the reservoir at Esquireira but due to the very badly corroded state of the mains the pressure and delivery in town was inadequate and caused considerable inconvenience and irritation to domestic consumers, hotels, hospitals etc, and complaints were of daily frequency.

The supply was intermittent, the lower parts of the town having to be cut off twice daily between the hours 2 - 3 p.m. and 8 - 10.30 p.m. in order to supply water to hospitals and about 150 - 175 houses in the upper parts of the town. The major portion of the upper parts are without water except during the periods mentioned above and as an example of the difficulties experienced it can be stated that it was necessary to provide Council workmen to carry water from the ground floor water tap in the general hospital to feed tanks in roof space, during operations.

This was the position at the close of the year, and the Council are using their best endeavours to get a reconstruction scheme commenced, and have taken upon themselves the responsibility of placing an order for new piping.

The water is chlorinated and treated with silicate of soda. It would be an improvement to have the catchment ground fenced in and negotiations are going ahead with the Forestry Commission with the view of letting the ground for tree planting and fencing.

Water Samples were submitted for bacteriological analyses, with the following result:-

(1) Number of samples taken	--	27
(2) Highly Satisfactory	-	26
(3) Unsatisfactory.	-	1

There is also a small supplementary supply system in the town supplying two terraces of houses and made use of by other residents who like "spring water". This water is not treated, but is regularly sampled, the results being as follows:-

(1) Number of samples taken	-	23
(2) Number highly satisfactory	-	20
(3) Number unsatisfactory	-	3

Two samples of the town water supply were submitted for chemical analyses, one before treatment by silicate of soda and one following treatment. The result was as follows:-

	Before treatment.	after treatment.
p.H. valve	6.9	8.9
Alkalinity as CaCO ₃	8.	11.
Total hardness CaCO ₃	10.	8.
Silica (SiO ₂)	5.	8.

The result shews an increase of 3 p.p.m. SiO₂ over the untreated water and this together with an elevation of p.H. value to nearly 9 is considered satisfactory.

Statistics are as follows:-

Approximate population of Statutory area.	2000
Population supplied into houses, about	1315
Population supplied by standpipes, about	665
Total population supplied directly, about	1980
Population without piped supplies, about	20

SEWERAGE and SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

The sewers in the lower parts of the town are in an extremely defective state and are a constant source of trouble, giving rise to serious pollution of ditches near the built up areas of the town. Continuous trouble is experienced in maintaining the flow of sewage into the outfall works, as the main sewer is completely out of commission, and the whole of the town sewage is now passing through a sewer designed to cope with a small part only of the town, and even this sewer is defective and very badly silted.

The disposal works are in an extremely defective state, obsolete and inefficient.

The Council is doing its utmost to get a reconstruction scheme approved and started.

MEAT and FOOD INSPECTION.

It has been the practice to inspect all meat killed at the local Ministry of Food Slaughterhouse but as the local slaughterhouse was in a thoroughly unsatisfactory state and the subject of representations by the Council to the Ministry of Food, the building was closed down late in 1950 for total

reconstruction, and apart from an emergency opening to deal with salvaging of meat from cattle involved in a local railway accident, no slaughtering took place.

Six frozen ewe carcasses were condemned during the year, being stale and discoloured, and not enclosed in bags.

Inspections of foodstuffs in shops entailed the surrender of the following:-

Canned meat	--	50 Tins.
Canned Fish	--	43 "
Canned Cherries	--	33 "
Pickled cabbage	--	12 jars.
Canned plums	--	8 "
Marmalade	--	4 tins.
Tinned milk	--	10 "
Lime Fruit.	--	4 jars.
Baked beans.	--	7 tins.
Tinned Peas.	--	19 "
Canned tomatoes.	--	37 "
Soups	--	23 "
Tinned pears.	--	3 "
Tinned strawberries	--	5 "
Jam.	--	6 Jars.
Tinned Apricots.	--	5 Tins.
Tinned Olives.	--	4 "
Tinned Pineapple.	--	2 "
Pickles.	--	18 Jars.
Tinned Damson	--	9 tins.
Tinned Hams, foreign	--	17 "
Miscellaneous packets of Foodstuffs.	--	115 packages.

I wish to thank Mr B. Brooks Evans, the Council's Sanitary Inspector for his help in compiling this report.

I am Mr Chairman & Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

Amelia Rowles.

Medical Officer.

